[English]

Recovery of Dues

2477. LT. GEN. (RETD.) PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has sought the help of Law Ministry to recover a sum of Rs. 1300 crore from a private company in respect of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the present status of the matter; and

(c) the total amount to be recovered by Doordarshan from various private companies as on date and the steps initiated by it to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No single private company/agency owes an outstanding amount to the tune of Rs. 1300 crores to Doordarshan.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A total amount of Rs. 40 crores (approx.) is outstanding against various agencies. Doordarshan is taking recourse to contractual provision including encashment of bank guarantee, deaccreditation of errant agencies and legal action for recovering the dues. Programmes of major defaulting agencies are also taken off the air and no fresh programmes are allotted to them.

Introduction of Trains

2478. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN:
SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI :
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :
SHRI N.J. RATHWA
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :
SHRI LINGARAJ VALYAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations/requests/proposals from the State Governments, Members of Parliament and various organisations regarding the introduction of trains in the country during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Train-wise and Place-wise;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the number of new trains started and proposed to be started during 1997, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representations are received for introduction of trains at various levels of the Railway Administration. As the information is voluminous and involves repetition these are not compiled Train-wise and zone-wise.

(c) and (d) Introduction of trains is an ongoing process depending upon the traffic justification, resource availability and operational feasibility. During 1997-98, the No. of Express trains (single) introduced/proposed to be introduced on zone-wise originating basis include :

Railway	No. of Trains
Central	2
Eastern	3
Northern	14
North Eastern	5
North East Frontier	3
Southern	9
South Central	3
South Eastern	4
Western	7
Total	50

Post Haste

2479. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Post Haste' appearing in the, Hindustan Times, dated April 30,1977;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether there is an inordinate delay in the distribution of postal mail in the rural areas; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Post Haste" appearing in Hindustan Times dated